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I am a gun user visiting
Canada

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How the Law Applies to Me If ...

I AM A GUN USER VISITING CANADA

The *Firearms Act* will bring about changes that will affect firearms owners and users visiting Canada. **Most of these changes will come into effect on January 1, 2001.**

This fact sheet is of interest to you if:

- you visit Canada to take part in activities that involve firearms, for example, hunting and target shooting; **and**
- you are an adult (18 years of age or older) and you plan to either bring firearms into Canada or to borrow and use firearms while you are here; **or**
- you are a minor (under 18 years of age) and you plan to borrow and use firearms while you are in Canada.

BRINGING FIREARMS INTO CANADA

Important Points:

- This section applies to non-residents who do not have a Canadian firearms licence.
- You must be at least 18 years of age to bring a firearm into Canada.
- You may not import prohibited firearms into Canada (see "Prohibited Firearms" section below for more information).
- Your Firearms Declaration will not permit you to purchase firearms while you are in Canada.

- You may only do so if you are the holder of a Canadian Possession and Acquisition Licence.

Firearms Declaration

You must stop at customs and declare all firearms that you wish to bring into Canada. Your Firearms Declaration must be confirmed by a customs officer at the border.

Firearms Declarations must be made in writing; however, in rare cases, a customs officer can permit you to make an oral declaration. In most cases it will be possible to complete and mail in a pre-declaration form, which can be confirmed when you arrive at the border. Once the new law is in effect, Firearms Declaration forms will be available through outfitters, hunting and shooting clubs, Canadian tourism offices, and our toll-free information line (1-800-731-4000).

To make a declaration, you will have to give basic information about yourself, your destination in Canada, and your reason for bringing a firearm into Canada. Background checks, including a criminal history search, will be conducted. You will also be asked for descriptive information about each firearm you are bringing into the country (i.e., make, model, serial number, calibre/gauge).

If you are bringing restricted firearms (primarily handguns) into Canada, you will also need an Authorization to Transport **before** you can enter Canada. This authorization will permit you to transport your restricted firearms between specified places within Canada.

You must obtain this authorization in advance from the Chief Firearms Officer of the Canadian province or territory you will be visiting.

When you apply for an Authorization to Transport, you will have to show that you have a good and sufficient reason for bringing your restricted firearms to Canada, such as for use in target practice, or a target shooting competition at an approved shooting club or range.

For more information, call the Chief Firearms Officer of the Canadian province or territory that you will be visiting. You can obtain the address, telephone and fax numbers by calling our enquiries centre at 1-800-731-4000.

Confirmation

When you arrive at the border, a customs officer may review your Firearms Declaration and examine your firearms. The customs officer must ensure that you are bringing your firearms into Canada for a legitimate purpose and that you have met all the requirements. If everything checks out, the customs officer will confirm your Firearms Declaration and, when you are importing restricted firearms, your Authorization to Transport. You will then be issued a confirmation number either in writing or orally.

Your confirmed Firearms Declaration will serve two purposes while you are in Canada:

- it will act as a temporary licence authorizing you to possess the firearm(s) listed thereon;

- and it will serve as a temporary registration certificate for the firearms you are importing.

Your Firearms Declaration will expire after 60 days (for non-restricted firearms). If you are importing restricted firearms, your Firearms Declaration will expire on the earlier of 60 days or the date your Authorization to Transport expires. A new Firearms Declaration will be required every time you leave and then re-enter Canada.

If you will be in Canada longer than 60 days, you may renew your Firearms Declaration one or more times. You will be able to do this from within Canada. The new term will also be 60 days. To renew, contact the Chief Firearms Officer of the province or territory that you are visiting.

When you leave Canada, in many cases, you will be able to leave your Firearms Declaration in a drop-off box. In some cases, however, a Canadian customs officer at the border crossing may inspect it and may examine your firearms to ensure that you are exporting all the firearms that you previously brought into Canada.

Refusal to Confirm

A customs officer can refuse to confirm your Firearms Declaration if:

- you do not truthfully complete the declaration form, or provide all required information;
- you do not comply with the requirements set out in the *Firearms Act* and regulations;
- he or she concludes that it is desirable, in the interests of your safety and/or the safety of others, that the firearm in your possession not be allowed to enter Canada.

If the customs officer refuses to confirm your Firearms Declaration, then, depending on the situation, the officer may:

- require that the firearm be exported from Canada; or
- detain the firearm and give you a reasonable amount of time to comply with requirements.

Fee

The fee for a 60-day Firearms Declaration will be \$50 in Canadian funds. This amount will be payable only **once every 12 months**. If, within the 12-month period, you extend your Firearms Declaration for a further 60 days, or you leave Canada and come back, you **do not** pay the fee again. You **do not** pay more if you bring in more than one firearm. There will be no fee for the Authorization to Transport restricted firearms.

BORROWING FIREARMS IN CANADA

***Note:** This provision will come into effect in April 1, 1999.

If you will be visiting Canada and plan to borrow firearms while you are here, you must get a Non-Resident's Sixty-Day Possession Licence. This licence is available to persons **18 years of age or over only** and will allow you to borrow **non-restricted** firearms **only** (ordinary rifles and shotguns) for the following purposes:

- hunting under the supervision of an outfitter or other person authorized to provide organized hunting services in Canada;
- hunting with a Canadian resident who has the proper firearms licence and hunting licence;
- competing in a shooting competition;
- target practice at an approved shooting club or range;
- participating in a historical re-enactment or display;

- engaging in a business or scientific activity being carried on in a remote area where firearms are necessary for the control of predators;
- participating in a parade, pageant or other similar event; or
- using firearms for movie, television, video or theatrical productions or publishing activities.

You should apply for this temporary licence well in advance of your arrival at the Canadian border. To get a licence application form, call 1-800-731-4000.

Fee

The fee for a Non-Resident's Sixty-Day Possession Licence for borrowed firearms will be \$30 in Canadian funds. You may renew this licence once in a 12-month period at no extra charge. Any renewals after this will cost \$30.

YOU CAN GET A CANADIAN FIREARMS LICENCE

Adults (18 years of age and over)

Frequent visitors to Canada may wish to apply for a Canadian Possession and Acquisition Licence which is valid for 5 years. This licence will permit you to acquire (buy or receive as a gift, inheritance or in trade) firearms in Canada.

The fee for a five-year Possession and Acquisition licence is \$60 (for non-restricted firearms only) or \$80 (for non-restricted and restricted or prohibited firearms).

For more information, call the Canadian Firearms Centre's enquiries line at 1-800-731-4000 and ask for the fact sheet "I Own a Firearm". You can also contact the Chief

Firearms Officer of the province or territory that you will be visiting. You can obtain the appropriate address, telephone and fax numbers by calling our enquiries line.

Minors (12 to 17 years of age)

Minors will not be able to bring firearms into Canada or get a temporary borrowing licence. They will be allowed to use firearms only if they are under the direct supervision of a licensed adult.

Minors who visit Canada frequently may wish to apply for a Canadian Minor's Licence. A Canadian Minor's Licence will permit the use of **non-restricted firearms only** by persons 12 to 17 years of age. This licence requires parental consent.

The fee for a minor's licence will be \$10 for up to one year, \$20 for one to two years and \$30 for over two years.

For more information, call the Canadian Firearms Centre's enquiries line at 1-800-731-4000 and ask for the fact sheet "I Am A Minor". You can also contact the Chief Firearms Officer of the province or territory that you will be visiting. You can obtain the appropriate address, telephone and fax numbers by calling our enquiries line.

Minors and Restricted Firearms

Sometimes minors visiting Canada use restricted firearms for legitimate activities such as shooting competitions. If you wish to use a restricted firearm for such an activity, you may do so only if you are under the **direct and immediate supervision** of an adult licensed to have restricted firearms under the *Firearms Act*.

This means that the licensed person must be close enough to you to be able to take any action

necessary to prevent you from doing anything with the firearm that is unsafe or against the law.

PROHIBITED FIREARMS

You cannot bring prohibited firearms, including prohibited handguns, into Canada. The customs officer will refuse to confirm your Firearms Declaration. He or she may allow you to export the firearm back to your country. Firearms that are not immediately exported are forfeited.

A list of prohibited firearms is being finalized and will be available through our Web site and our 1-800 information line (see below). Please contact the Chief Firearms Officer of the province or territory you will be visiting for more specific information regarding the type of firearm(s) that you intend to bring into Canada.

STORING, TRANSPORTING AND HANDLING FIREARMS IN CANADA

Whether you bring firearms into Canada or you borrow and use them while you are here, you are responsible for knowing and abiding by the laws which regulate the safe storage, transportation and handling of firearms in this country. For more information, call 1-800-731-4000.

COMING INTO FORCE

The *Firearms Act* is being phased in from December 1, 1998 to January 1, 2003.

INFORMATION

For more information, or to order a copy of the *Firearms Act*, its regulations, application forms and other CFC publications, contact us at:

1-800-731-4000 (Toll Free)

Web site: www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca

e-mail: canadian.firearms@justice.x400.gc.ca

This fact sheet is intended to provide general information only. For legal references, please refer to the *Firearms Act* and its regulations.

Provincial, territorial and municipal laws, regulations and policies may also apply. Contact your Chief Firearms Officer.

Le présent feuillet d'information est également disponible en français





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